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NEW WATER, SANITATIONS SYSTEMS ACT EXPANDS USDA'S HELP IN RAD EFFORT

The new Water and Sanitations Systems in Rural Areas Act increases USDA's ability to serve rural people in their development projects. For the first time USDA can now:

- * Help rural communities build sewage systems. The Act provides for loans and grants. Grants may not exceed 50 percent of the system's cost (Total amount appropriated for grants -- \$20 million).



- * Make grants for water systems (formerly, USDA's Farmers Home Administration could make only loans).

- * Eases requirements for recreation loans.

The new legislation also:

- * Increased the size of rural communities, USDA can help up to 5,500 population;

- * Increased the annual insured loan program of Farmers Home Administration from \$200 million to \$450 million;

- * Increased the maximum size of soil and water and grazing association loans from \$1 million to \$4 million;

- * Increased the funds available for farm ownership loans.

USDA moved quickly to serve rural areas under the broadened programs. President Johnson signed the new Act on October 7, and by the close of business the next day, USDA had made loans to more than 1,000 family-farmers and rural groups to assist in their development projects.

One of the first loans (\$32,000) went to the small rural community of Kim, Colorado, to drill a well and install 5 1/2 miles of pipeline. About 270 area families have been rationing water since one of their two wells went dry.

Sixty families in Trinity County, Texas, received a \$74,000 loan for a well, water treatment plant, storage tank and 12 miles of pipeline to relieve their limited water supply.

Forty small ranchers in Beaverhead County, Montana, borrowed \$1 million to buy or lease 57,700 acres. The grazing area will help them balance ranching operations.

In Hancock County, Maine, a year-round recreation center -- including an 18-hole golf course, curling rink, and swimming pool -- will be developed by 300 rural families with their \$417,000 loan. The center will attract summer vacationists to the area as well as provide local residents with year-round facilities.

CUCUMBERS -- A WEAPON AGAINST POVERTY IN THIS PROJECT

Cucumbers became a weapon in the war on poverty in the Moncure and Pantego communities of North Carolina -- earning up to \$400-\$600 each for more than 200 low-income families.

The project was a cooperative venture between the North Carolina and U. S. Departments of Agriculture under the Matching Fund Program.

Why cucumbers? Agricultural specialists knew pickle processors were looking for more cucumbers, and the crop's high labor requirement made it a perfect one-acre crop for low-income farmers with large families.

County extension agents showed the farmers -- 80 percent of whom had incomes of less than \$3,000 last year -- how to plant, grow, and pick the new crop. Specialists from the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and USDA's Consumer and Marketing Service worked with local farmers and companies.



At harvest time, the farmers took their cucumbers to a central location for weighing and grading and were paid in cash.

USDA's Matching Fund Program helps solve marketing problems at the State and local level through projects proposed and carried out by State Departments of Agriculture. Last year, USDA helped 44 States carry out 145 projects.

For more information on USDA's Matching Fund Program, write: Consumer and Marketing Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C., 20250.

AN AGRICULTURAL PROCESSING PLANT IN YOUR COMMUNITY?

That's the title of a new 11-page USDA bulletin designed to help RAD committees determine whether an agricultural processing plant would be practical for their area.

For a free copy of "An Agricultural Processing Plant in Your Community?" (AIB-298) send a post card to: Editor, RAD Newsletter, Office of Information, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C., 20250.

1965 FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ACT INTRODUCES NEW CONCEPTS, PROGRAMS, BENEFITS



The Food and Agriculture Act of 1965 was signed by President Johnson Nov. 3, 1965. Secretary of Agriculture Orville L. Freeman said that the new legislation is "designed to improve farm programs, raise family farm income, and help rural and urban people gain new access to America's outdoors."

The new Cropland Adjustment Program (CAP) included in the Act is of special interest to RAD committees. One provision authorizes increased payments to farmers who open their land to the public without charge to fish, hunt, trap, and hike. Public access is subject to State and Federal regulations.

Another provision helps cities or other local government units buy cropland and establish on a cost-share basis practices to preserve open spaces, natural beauty, develop wildlife, recreation facilities, and prevent air or water pollution.

The Land and Water Conservation Fund, administered by the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation (BOR), also helps local governments develop public recreation areas. The Cropland Adjustment Program will supplement the BOR activity where the land involved is now growing surplus crops.

The U. S. Department of Agriculture expects to have the Cropland Adjustment Program underway before the end of 1965. If your RAD committee, Mayor, or head of your park and planning commission wants to apply for CAP funds to help buy and convert cropland from production and use it for a green space or parks, talk with your county or State ASCS chairman. USDA estimates about 40 million acres will be placed under 5 to 10 year agreements in the new Cropland Adjustment Program.

Information will soon be available on the new program from the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C., 20250.

RURAL WATER SYSTEMS WASH AWAY DOUBTS ABOUT COUNTY'S FUTURE

Teamwork conquered the water shortage in Lawrence County, Tennessee, and water now flows through pipes to 80 percent of the county's families.

Nine rural water systems serving almost 1,354 families have been built in the county with loans from USDA's Farmers Home Administration.

In addition to adequate water for municipal use and fire protection, citizens find new companies are interested in the county and new homes are being built.

Three years ago it was a different story. Water was a limited resource. Shallow wells couldn't supply enough water for most farms and deep wells usually produced foul-tasting sulphur water. Fire destroyed a hardwood flooring mill in Iron City a few years ago and the whole community felt the loss. "If we had had a source

of water and our present fire fighting equipment, we would have been able to save the mill," Mayor Jimmy H. Gifford said. Iron City received a \$155,000 FHA loan to help build a water system in April, 1965. Iron City hopes to have the system in operation by the end of this year.

After an outbreak of hepatitis, Summertown citizens got a \$190,000 FHA loan to build a system supplying water to 215 families. Soon, eight other groups began developing nonprofit rural water systems and Lawrence County's water problems began to vanish.

USDA BULLETIN SUGGESTS DESIGNS FOR RETIREMENT HOUSING

Here's a new bulletin your housing subcommittee will find helpful -- "Multi-Unit Retirement Housing for Rural Areas," (AIB-297). It's intended primarily for use by architects, engineers, and builders.

The 24-page booklet displays 11 floor plans for 1 and 2-bedroom units that can be grouped into attractive multi-unit developments. The units are designed with the limited budget of the retiree in mind and take into consideration the elderly's special needs.

For a copy of this bulletin, AIB-297, send a post card to: Editor, RAD Newsletter, Office of Information, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C., 20250.

73 OHIO COUNTIES COMPLETE DEVELOPMENT PLANS

Nearly 7,000 Ohioans have finished long-time resource development plans for 73 of Ohio's 88 counties. In each county, major organizations received copies for reference and planning.

Each plan is different. Problems, needs, and opportunities vary from one area to another. So far, RAD committees report 140 projects completed, 52 underway, and 64 more in the planning stages. Here are some examples:

- * The Medina County group found the county needed a park system, so they helped form the Medina County Park Commission.
- * Holmes County studied its resources and decided to build a recreation complex.
- * Based on the Clermont County plan, the county applied for and received a planning grant to finance a county-wide soil survey.